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## FIELD TRIP TO SALT MARSH SANCTUARY

On January 6, about 35 birders assembled at Newark, for a trip to the San Franeiseo Bay Salt Marsh Sanetuary, to look for rails. At somewhat before the highest point of the highest tide of the year, we began flounder-ing through the salieornia. A number of Clapper and Virginia Rails were flushed, one of the latter rising after a birder had passed within a foot of it. Birders were emulating terns, diving unexpectedly into hidden pools of marsh water and emerging to struggle good-naturedly back to the levee before high tide. Guy and Richey even swam a few channels at high tide while others watched from the levee.

At the end of the trip, when 14 birders were ambling carward along the levee, the prize of the day was seen by this group. Only a few feet away, in view for all to see elosely, was an elusive Black Rail; but it escaped into the salicornia when Richey tried to eapture it after it had flown directly toward him. We are told that even many eminent ornithologists have never seen this bird. The conversation among the 14 who saw it sounded like a heron rookery at the peak of the nesting season, as they continued on down the levee.

The 3 latest departees scrambled and stumbled among the crevasses in the levee, in an attempt to round up a scampering Virginia Rail for photo-graphs.

Among other birds noted were Short-eared Owl, Forster Tern, Curlew (whieh?, Godwit, Green-winged Teal, and Wilson's Snipe.—*Grace M. Miller, Historian.*

## 1962 AUDUBON CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED

Golden Gate Audubon Soeiety will, again this year, award five half-scholarships for outdoor nature study at the National Audubon Summer Camp, at Sugar Bowl Lodge near Donner Summit. Teachers, youth leaders,

and those preparing for such service are invited to apply soon for Audubon Camp scholarships if their work includes furthering nature and conservation knowledge. Audubon members are urged to encourage such persons to apply.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old. Applications should include a statement of the applicant's background, his interest in nature and his opportunities for sharing his interest and information with others, particularly, younger persons. A recommendation from someone who knows the candidate's work should accompany the letter. Applications should be sent to *Fred Nora, Chairman Audubon Camp Scholarship Committee, Apt.* 14, 2535 *Regent Street, Berkeley* 4, *California,* before *April* 1, 1962.

Candidates who are awarded scholarships will be notified soon after April 1, so they can make reservations through *Audubon Camp,* 1000 *North Durfee, El Monte, California.* Any one of the five two-week camp sessions between June 24 and September 1, 1962, is open to persons receiving scholarships. Each scholarship is worth $55 of the $110 camp fee, which includes tuition, room, board, and transportation on camp field trips. Campers who wish two units of college credit may arrange for this and pay an additional fee at camp.

Audubon Society members who are not scholarship candidates are encouraged to attend camp, too.

—FRED NORA, *Scholarship Committee Chairman*

## COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

Don't ever think that *The Gull* isn't read widely, and the contents noted! Our quotes in the October issue, from the Sierra Club *Yodeler,* reporting on an August meeting with the Division of Beaches and Parks, on prospects for Mt. Diablo State Park expansion plans caused some concern within the Division lest they be considered as categorically opposed to such expansion since they couldn't see any ways or means for immediate land acquisition. Since then, Mr. Charles DeTurk, former chief of that division and now head of the new Department of Parks and Recreation, has phoned your Conservation Chairman to fill him in on the Mt. Diablo status. Mr. DeTurk states that 1400 acres for park expansion on The Mountain will be requested in the coming State Parks Bonds measure. Over and beyond that, a recent donation of some $2,500 from a Contra Costa County citizen will be used immediately to purchase between 900 and 1,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management acreage adjacent to the present park and which is available at this token price.

We asked about the so-called "school land" between the Main Peak and North Peak, the popular hikers' rendezvous lookout already lost to private development. It seems that if the Division of Beaches and Parks ever requests this property, Department of Education policy will designate the going market price . . . . just as if it were a private sale! Well, we do appreciate Mr. DeTurk taking time to phone us personally.

Better watch the *Save San Francisco Bay Association.* (You can join for a dollar, address—Box 925, Berkeley 1). Among latest developments is a plan to save that little natural marsh and flat area just east of the San

Francisco Bay Bridge toll plaza. A little "show window sanctuary" here would attract thousands and help to publicize our desperate fight to save other natural areas around the bay.

—PAUL COVEL, *Conservation Chairman*

FIELD OBSERVATIONS—December 27, 7 Evening Grosbeaks were eating seeds on a maple tree at Claremont Avenue and Avalon, Berkeley.—
—Minnie Young.

On January 2, a Mountain Chickadee was seen on a fir tree at the corner of Mandana and Carlton Streets, in Oakland, by Roy Peterson.
*MEMBERS' CHILDREN*: Have you returned your questionnaire yet? Deadline is extended to February 10th in order to get complete returns from the membership. Act now! — Blanche Mack, *Chairman*

## FEBRUARY MEETING

The 526th regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held on Thursday, February 8, at 7:30 p. m., in the Rotary Natural Science Center on Lake Merritt in Oakland. Our speaker will be Mr. Howard L. Cogswell of the Mills College faculty. The title of his lecture is, *Weather, Bird Migration, and Bird Finding in Central California.* All who have heard Howard Cogswell know of the pleasure which is in store for the audience.

A no-host dinner preceding the meeting will be held at Lovely's on Grand Avenue at Perkins, at six o'clock. Guests are welcome.

—MYRA J. BROWNE, *Program Chairman*

## FIELD TRIPS FOR FEBRUARY

On Sunday, February 4, to Richardson Bay and other Marin Peninsula points. See January *Gull* for more detailed information. Meet at parking area just north of the Richardson Bay Bridge on U. S. Highway 101, at 9 a. m. Leader, Elizabeth Lennon, ED 2-1641.

On Tuesday, February 13, to Lake Merritt. The lake is a good place to observe many species of water birds at close range. Some unusual birds may also be seen in the pens and on display in the dome. A visit to the Rotary Natural Science Center is interesting and educational. Meet at the Rotary Natural Science Center near the feeding area, at 9:30 a. m. Bring lunch, warm clothing, binoculars, telescope and interested friends. Leader, Lee Stallcup, LO 9-3185.

On Saturday, February 17, to San Francisco Zoo and Lake Merced. Meet at the north entrance to Fleishhacher Zoo and Sloat Boulevard, at 9:15 a.m. After covering the zoo area, a circuit of Lake Merced will be made to see waterfowl and landbirds in the shrubs bordering the lake. This area usually affords good views of Allen's Hummingbirds, Marsh Wrens, and Townsend's Warbler. Red-necked, Horned, Eared, Western, and Pied-billed Grebe were seen from the fishing bridge, on a previous trip. Leader, Aileen Pierson, JU 7-4163.

On Saturday, February 24, to Thornton and areas west of Lodi. The main feature of this trip is the spectacular views of Sandhill Cranes. In addition,

ducks, geese, Gallinule and White-tailed Kite may be seen on farmlands and adjacent ponds. A side trip to Courtland to view Long-eared Owls will be made if the owls cooperate. Meet at 9:30 a.m., in the town of Thornton, which is reached by turning south from Walnut Grove on the Sacramento River Road, Route 24. Allow 2½ hours driving time from the bay area. The distance to Thornton is about 80 miles. Bring binoculars, telescopes, warm clothing, lunch and interested friends. Leader, Harold G. Peterson, LO 8-7534. On Sunday, February 25, the trip will be repeated. Leader, Phil Smith, LO 9-9451.

Field Trips for March:

March 11, Sunday - Rodeo Lagoon

March 13, Tuesday - Golden Gate Park & Cliff House

March 17 & 18, Saturday & Sunday Two trips to Canyon Ranch.

March 24, Saturday,—Tilden Park

The spring trip to the Farallon Islands has been set for Sunday, May 20.

—HAROLD G. PETERSON, *Field Trips Chairman*

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